REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action of Examiner Peter J. Smith, mailed 9 Feb 2005.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1, 18, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reciting the limitation "said document" without sufficient antecedent basis.

Applicants have amended these claims to clarify the antecedent basis and particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being vague.

Applicants have amended claim 22 so as to render it definite.

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Applicants request that claims 1, 18, and 22 be allowed.

35 U.S.C. 101

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants have amended claim 22 so as to read on statutory subject matter.

Applicants request that claim 22 be allowed.

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 15-16, 18-19, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Sorge et al. (hereinafter "Sorge"), U.S. Patent 6,613,098 B1.

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Sorge describes a system where an Excel file is use to
create an HTML file that can be used to represent the data
that is inside the Excel, or spreadsheet file (application
specific data), and have that HTML file used by the browser
and by the native application (Excel). The Sorge invention
relates to how the HTML file is created with data. It is
all about the HTML document format, and the process for
creating it.

That is not what Applicants are claiming as their
invention. Applicants invention is specific to a
collaboration place including an editor selection control.
Sorge is distinguished on the basis of the relationship
between browser, user, application, application data, and
collaboration space application on the server which is set
forth in Applicants' claims as amended.

Sorge does not teach collaboration space.

Further, in accordance with Applicants invention, a
data file is selected and converted to HTML (Sorge also does
this). Then, the resulting HTML version of the data file is
sent with the original file to the server, which puts in its

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database the HTML part and the application data part as a compound, or coordinated file. Later, when displaying the HTML version at the browser, the appropriate application is automatically launched.

Applicants provide the capability of creating a document file, such as a .doc file, using a local editor, and then operating a browser in HTTP mode to create a shared file which can be viewed by another user on the network. In this manner, data that is in the place at the collaboration space server may be shared with multiple temporary copies in local systems or browsers.

Thus, applicants use a place to share files. A central copy of the file is correlated and coordinated with working copies existing at local user browsers.

Applicants have invented the following work flow, various stages of which are the subject of the several claims in the case. See Specification, page 104, line 11 to page 105, line 20; page 107, line 4 to page 108, line 3; and 109, line 11, to page 113, line 5.

Step 1 is to add a document to a collaboration place

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server where it can be accessed and shared by multiple users. This is done by operating a browser to create a new document and add it to the place using an upload control. The document residing at the place server includes two attachments: .doc and .html documents together with supporting images, etc.

Step 2 is to download the document from the server and to view a copy of the document added to the collaboration place server in step 1 in a local machine using an HTML rendering created by a native application on the local machine.

Step 3 is to edit the document at the local machine using a working copy of the document launched in the native application in step 2.

This is different than Sorge. Applicants are coordinating working copies on local machines with a shared document on the server. Document files on a local machine are represented by at least two files in a compound document on the server. Sorge does not describe these concepts of workflow; that is, the life cycle and file states which enable a collaboration space to be used to a share server

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based document among local machines.

Thus, applicants assert that they have invented a coordinated life cycle and file states of client-side files serving as working copies of a central, shared compound document residing in collaboration space. This coordination involves a save event, step 4.

Step 4 is to save the document file created or edited in step 3 in the local machine by a native application. Upon the local document being saved, a local monitor notices a change has been made to the local document file and readies the collaboration space user interface at the browser for a submit action to the collaboration space server.

Step 5 is to send the new or modified document file to the server, just as in step 1.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 15-16, 18-19, and 22 have been amended to set forth these distinctions with respect to Sorge. Applicants request that these claims be allowed.

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35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 9-14, 17, and 20-21 have been rejected under Bookspan et al. (hereinafter "Bookspan"), U.S. Patent 6,629,129 B1 in view of Sorge.

Bookspan, at Col. 3, line 30 to Col. 4, line 9, teaches an inverse of Applicants' invention in that it describes adding on-line collaboration capability to an editing application. Applicants, on the other hand, have added an editing capability to collaboration space. Whether or not these are equivalent teachings depends upon the details set forth in the amended claims.

Bookspan describes something quite different from the amended claims (see, in particular, Col. 3, lines 41-47). The Bookspan virtual meeting is driven by the editing application. In Applicants' invention, the editor is driven by the user interface to the place. The control of the virtual meeting services is integrated into the editing application user interface. Applicants claim a cooperative model in which control for launching the editor is embedded in the user interface of the place. Once the editor is

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launched, the editing application and the place software are loosely coupled: that is, having launched the file into the editor, the editor can be closed without impacting the UI. Coupling is through the state of the file, not the UIs (that is, either application can be closed independently of the other).

Thus, in Applicants' invention, if round trip editing is broken by closing the browser that includes the UI, when the user goes back to that same document to edit it the monitor will detect the newer version of the file on the local machine and notify the user, prompting the user to pick up the changes that are available. If the place window at the browser UI is closed before uploading the local document to the collaboration space server, when the user again accesses the document the state of the file is detected and used to coordinate the state of the document in the place with the working copy on the local system.

Applicants drive an editing session from the collaboration context (that is, the user interface to the place), whereas Brookspan does the opposite, that is, drives the collaboration context from the editing session.

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Applicants have previously discussed and distinguished
Sorge. Further, Sorge does not teach the loose coupling of
the UI and application through the state of the file which
Applicants assert as a distinction with respect to
Brookspan.

Applicants have amended 9-14, 17, and 20-21
accordingly, and request that they now be allowed.

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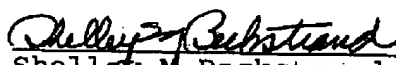
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-2, 4-7, and 9-22.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conversation with applicant(s) attorney could possibly facilitate prosecution of the case, he may be reached at the number noted below.

Sincerely,

P. J. Shaughnessy, et al.

By

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